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such a start they at once began a system of extortion and oppression so destructive that the author finds it hard to imagine anything worse. There ensued a mad race for profits which included the corruption of national and state governments, and editors and public men of all types, the destruction of whole communities, and the practical strangulation of legitimate enterprise. The cost of all this has been foisted on the public through false capitalization, refusal to pay debts legitimately due the government, land grabs, etc.; and all this expresses itself in extortionate freight and passenger rates. Such is the main argument.

The light, conversational tone in which the book is written seems rather overdone even for popularity. It grows monotonous and its sarcasm seems utterly inadequate. Even in a book that does not claim to expose the ultimate causes of conditions with which it deals some other explanation than the "handy printing press" as the reason for constant new issues of stock in already overcapitalized corporations might occasionally be suggested. The author forfeits all the credence which is due to his just criticisms by the violent and one-sided attitude held to throughout the book.

Fire Prevention. By EDWARD F. CROKER. New York: Dodd, Mead & Co., 1912. 8vo, pp. x+354. \$1.50 net.

Mr. Croker has put the results of his experience and observation as chief of the New York fire department into this sanely written study of fire prevention. His preliminary remarks on the great cost and the largely preventable causes of fires in this country form a fitting introduction to a book whose chief emphasis is on the preventive side of fire-fighting. The chapters on protective devices and on the organization and work of the fire department are especially interesting because they show careful, first-hand study of the subjects with which they deal. Photographs illustrating his various points add much to the vividness of his descriptions. But throughout the book he reiterates that all effort spent on extinguishing fires are ill directed and costly as compared with efforts at prevention. He shows how great a saving of money and of life might be effected if proper legislation in regard to really fireproof construction, protective devices, drills, and punishment for incendiarism might be secured and competently enforced. Many valuable practical suggestions on the efficiency of various building and safety devices are given and the work of the National Board of Fire Underwriters' laboratories is explained at some length. The large number of typographical errors is unfortunate.

The Burden of Poverty: What to Do. By C. F. DOLE. New York: B. W. HUEBSCH, 1912. 8vo, pp. 124. 50 cents.

This little volume belongs to "The Art of Life" series. The series as a whole aims to set forth a view of life in clear and wide perspective, and to stimulate a clearer recognition of life problems. This particular book calls